

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #67 **Summer Announcement #60, Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B Subsistence Fishing** Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

Based on the assessment information to date, the Chinook salmon run is poor. The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 106,000 Chinook salmon through July 21 is well below the historical average of 147,000 for this date and is also below the average passage estimates at this point for late run years of approximately 131,000.

Consistent with management actions taken in Districts 1-5, measures are being implemented in Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and the Old Minto Area in order to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement.

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the downstream mouth of Wood River): This area includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana. Subsistence fishing will continue to be restricted to fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute, closely attended while in operation, and all Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive. These gear restrictions will be in effect during the next subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 23, until 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 25. Beginning 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 27, gear restrictions will be discontinued in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B.

Old Minto Area: Subsistence fishing in the Old Minto Area is currently open and will continue to be restricted to fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute, closely attended while in operation, and all Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive. Gillnets will not be allowed to be used. These gear restrictions will be in effect for the remainder of the ongoing subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled, until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 25. Beginning 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 27, gear restrictions will be discontinued in the Old Minto Area.

Subsistence fishermen are reminded that a subsistence fishing permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage. Subsistence fishermen fishing in Subdistrict 6-B three miles upstream of the mouth of Totchaket Slough are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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